

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application and stand finally rejected. It is proposed to amend the application by canceling claims 1-9 and 16-18 in order to narrow the issues for appeal or to place the application into condition for allowance. Entry of the proposed amendment and reconsideration and allowance of claims 10-15 and 19-20 in light of these proposed amendments is respectfully requested.

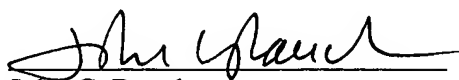
Double patenting rejection

Claims 10-15 stand rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over U.S. patent number 6,341,161 in view of U.S. patent number 5,497,414. Claims 19-20 stand similarly rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. patent number 6,766,003.

Submitted herewith is a terminal disclaimer to obviate a double patenting rejection over a prior patent, specifically, US patent nos. 6,341,161 and 6,766,003. Entry of this terminal disclaimer is respectfully requested to obviate the double patenting rejections and to place claims 10-15 and 19-20 in condition for allowance. Further, it is proposed to cancel claims 1-9 and 16-18 to remove the other grounds for rejection of the application. These amendments are entered solely to expedite allowance of the application. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuing applications claiming the priority of the present application and including claims 1-9 and 16-18 with suitable amendments or arguments in favor of patentability.

With this response, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the examiner deem a telephone conference to be of assistance in advancing the application to allowance, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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